

WILSON ASKS POWER TO DEAL IN CRISIS

Executive Requests Authority of Congress to Declare Armed Neutrality.

TALKS TO JOINT SESSION

(Continued From Page One.)

theirs," said he, "will lead to war. War can come only by the willful acts and aggressions of others."

Text of Address.
The president said:

"Gentlemen of the congress: I have again asked the privilege of addressing you because we are moving through critical times during which it seems to me to be my duty to keep in close touch with the houses of congress so that neither counsel nor action shall run at cross purposes between us.

"On the 3d of February I officially informed you of the sudden and unexpected action of the imperial government in declaring its intention to disregard the promises it had made to this government in April last and undertake immediate submarine operations against all commerce, whether of belligerents or of neutrals, that should seek to approach Great Britain and Ireland, the Atlantic coasts of Europe or the harbors of the eastern Mediterranean and to conduct those operations without regard to the established restrictions of international practice, without regard to any considerations of humanity which might interfere with their object. That policy was forthwith put into practice. It has now been in active execution for nearly four weeks.

"Its practical results are not fully disclosed. The commerce of other neutral nations is suffering severely, but not, perhaps, very much more severely than it was already suffering before the 1st of February, when the new policy of the imperial German government was put into operation. We have asked the co-operation of the other neutral governments to prevent these deprivations, but I fear none of them thought it wise to join us in any common course of action. Our own commerce has suffered, is suffering, rather in apprehension than in fact, rather because so many of our ships are timidly keeping to their home ports than because American ships have been sunk.

Two American Vessels Sunk.
Two American vessels have been sunk, the *Houatonic* and the *Lyman M. Law*. The case of the *Houatonic*, which was carrying foodstuffs consigned to London, was essentially like the case of the *Frye*, in which, it will be recalled, the German government admitted its liability for damages, and the lives of the crew, as in the case of the *Frye*, were safeguarded with reasonable care.

"The case of the *Law*, which was carrying box staves to Palermo, disclosed a ruthlessness of method which deserves grave condemnation, but was accompanied by no circumstances which might not have been expected at any time in connection with the use of the submarine against merchantmen as the German government has used it.

"In sum, therefore, the situation we find ourselves in with regard to the actual conduct of the German submarine warfare against commerce and its effects upon our own ships and people is substantially the same as it was when I addressed you on the 3d of February except for the tying up of our shipping in our own ports because of the unwillingness of our ship owners to risk their vessels at sea without insurance or adequate protection and the very serious congestion of our commerce which has resulted, a congestion which is growing rapidly more and more serious every day.

Blockade in Fact.
This in itself might presently accomplish, in effect, what the new German submarine orders were meant to accomplish, so far as we are concerned. We can only say, therefore, that the overt act which I have ventured to hope the German commanders would in fact avoid has not occurred.

"But while this is happily true it must be admitted that there have been certain additional indications and expressions of purpose on the part of the German press and the German authorities which have increased rather than lessened the impression that if our ships and our people are spared it will be because of fortunate circumstances or because the commanders of the German submarines which they may happen to encounter exercise an unexpected discretion and restraint rather than because of the instructions under which those commanders are acting.

Situation Most Critical.
It would be foolish to deny that the situation is fraught with the gravest possibilities and dangers. No thoughtful man can fail to see that the necessity for definite action may come at any time, if we are in fact, and not in words merely, to defend our elementary rights as a neutral nation. It would be most imprudent to be unprepared.

"I cannot in such circumstances be unmindful of the fact that the expiration of the term of the present congress is immediately at hand, by constitutional limitations, and that it would in all likelihood require an unusual length of time to assemble and organize the congress which is to succeed it.

"I feel that I ought in view of that fact, to obtain from you full and immediate assurance of the authority I may need at any moment to exercise. No doubt I already possess that power without special warrant of war by the plain implication of my constitutional limitations, and that I prefer, in the present circumstances, not to act upon general implication. I wish to feel that the authority and the power of the congress are behind me in whatever it may become necessary for me to do. We are jointly the servants of the people and must act together and in their spirit, so far as we can divine and interpret it.

Duty of Government Clear.
No one doubts what it is our duty to do. We must defend our commerce and the lives of our people in the midst of the present trying circumstances, with discretion, but with clear and steadfast purpose. Only the method and the extent remain to be chosen, upon the occasion, if occasion should indeed arise.

"Since it has unhappily proved impos-

YARROWDALE MEN FINALLY RELEASED

U. S. Minister at Madrid Cables Spanish Foreign Office

Said

FULL DETAILS ARE LACKING

Washington, Feb. 26.—Ambassador Willard at Madrid cabled today that the Spanish foreign office had notified him that seventy-two American sailors taken on the prize ship *Yarrowdale* into Germany had been released by Germany on February 16. No other details were given either as to the whereabouts of the men now or the long delay in hearing from Berlin on the many requests for their release.

The *Yarrowdale* prisoners, out of whose detention has grown one of the most serious collateral issues between the United States and Germany, once before were reported released and officials were not satisfied with today's cryptic announcement. An effort immediately was made to clear up the details.

Delay Hard to Explain.

Ambassador Willard's dispatch was sent from Madrid late yesterday. The State department was at a loss to explain the ten days' delay between the time of the reported release and the ambassador's notification.

On February 1, Ambassador Gerard reported that the men were in a "prison camp at Duermen, Westfalen." Just before the break with Germany on February 3, a demand was sent for their immediate release and four days later an indirect dispatch was received from Ambassador Gerard saying they had been set free.

Anxious to Get Them Out.

This was followed on the 12th by a communication through the Swiss minister that they had been retained because of reports that the crews of German ships in the United States had been imprisoned. Information as to the treatment of Germans and their property here was forwarded and followed by another demand for the release of the Americans. Officials have been very anxious to get them out of Germany, since they virtually are being held as hostages.

LINER LAONIA SUNK BY SUBSEA OFF IRISH COAST

(Continued From Page One.)

office of the British shipping commissioner here contains the following names:

W. Wrong, Baltimore; H. Smith, Louisville, Ky.; M. Shugled, J. T. Williams, B. Redrie, B. Cleveland, F. Smith, J. Fumpines, J. D. Brall, J. Lewar, J. Bowman, D. Adamson, H. Shepherd, J. Johnson, H. Young, L. Donnell, B. Carter, T. Coffey, A. Dwyer and C. Nesburg, all of New York City.

Sunk Without Warning.

London, Feb. 26.—It is stated officially that the *Laonia* was torpedoed without warning.

Wesley Frost, American consul at Queenstown, telegraphed the American embassy here today:

"*Cunard* *Laonia* torpedoed 10:50 Sunday night. Two hundred and seventy-eight survivors. Details lacking, but known as missing, one dead. The *Laonia* was one of the largest vessels of the *Cunard* fleet and the largest thus far sunk since the new German submarine warfare was commenced. It registered 18,099 tons, was 600 feet long, seventy-one-foot beam and forty-foot depth. It was built in 1911 at New Castle and was commanded by Captain W. R. D. Irvine.

List of Americans Aboard.

First cabin passengers aboard the *Laonia* totaled thirty-three and second cabin forty-two. The crew numbered 216. There were no steerage passengers.

The Americans aboard were:

A. T. Kirby, Bainbridge, N. J.; Mrs. F. E. Harris, New York; F. P. Gibbons of the Chicago Tribune; Mrs. Mary E. Hoy and Miss Elizabeth Hoy of Chicago, and the Rev. James Wareing of New York.

Five Thousand Sacks of Mail.

Five thousand sacks of United States mail were carried by the *Laonia*, of which 1,300 were transferred from the American liner *St. Louis* when it was decided to hold the latter vessel in port. Many valuable securities and documents sent by American business firms were supposed to be in the *St. Louis* mail bags.

The Central News says it is feared that the large amount of mail which the *Laonia* was bringing from America has been lost.

Virtually All Saved.

Liverpool, Feb. 26.—The *Cunard* company announces that there is reason to believe that virtually all on board the steamer *Laonia* were saved. There were between 200 and 220 members of the crew and from seventy to eighty passengers, of whom about one-half were in the first cabin.

Fifteen Survivors Landed.

Queenstown, Feb. 26.—Fifteen of the *Laonia*'s survivors are being landed. Others numbering 267, it is believed, are to land at about midnight. Preparations are being made to treat hospital cases.

Reception for Guardsmen.

Beatrice, Neb., Feb. 26.—(Special Telegram.)—Three hundred people attended a reception and banquet given here tonight at the Christian church for Company C. Patriotic addresses were made by Rev. B. F. Gaitner, A. H. Kidd, Lieutenant Colonel Hollingworth, Captains Jones and C. L. Brewster.

Text of Bill Giving Wilson The Authority He Requested

Washington, Feb. 26.—The text of the Flood bill giving President Wilson power to deal with the situation created by the U-boat warfare follows:

"Be it enacted by the senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in congress assembled, that the president of the United States be, and is hereby authorized and empowered to supply merchant ships, the property of citizens of the United States and bearing American registry with defensive arms should it in his judgment become necessary for him to do so, and also means of making use of them in defense against unlawful attack; and that he be and is hereby authorized and empowered to employ such other instrumentalities and methods as may in his judgment and discretion seem necessary and adequate to protect such ships and the citizens of the United States in their lawful and peaceful pursuits on the high seas.

"Section 2—The sum of \$100,000,000 is hereby appropriated out of any moneys in the treasury not otherwise appropriated to be expended by the president of the United States for the purpose herein stated, the said authority to be available until the first day of January, 1918; and the president is authorized to transfer so much thereof as he may deem necessary to the bureau of war risk insurance, created by act of congress, approved September 2, 1914, for the purpose of insuring vessels, their freight, passage moneys and cargoes against loss or damage for the present risks of war.

"Section 3—For the purpose of meeting the expenditures herein authorized, the secretary of the treasury, under the direction of the president, is hereby authorized to borrow on the credit of the United States and to issue therefor bonds of the United States not exceeding in the aggregate \$100,000,000, said bonds to be in such form and subject to such terms and conditions as the secretary of the treasury may prescribe, and to bear interest at the rate not exceeding 3 per centum per annum; provided, that such bonds shall be sold at not less than par, shall not carry the circulating privilege, and that all citizens of the United States shall be given an equal opportunity to subscribe therefor, but no commission shall be allowed or paid thereon; that both principal and interest shall be payable in United States gold coin of the present standard of value, and be exempt from all taxation and duties of the United States as well as from taxation in any form of all state, municipal, or local authorities; that any bonds issued hereunder may, under such conditions as the secretary of the treasury may prescribe, be convertible into bonds bearing a higher rate of interest than 3 per centum per annum if any bonds shall be issued by the United States at a higher rate than 3 per centum per annum by virtue of any act passed on or before December 31, 1918.

"Section 4—In order to pay the necessary expenses connected with said issue of bonds, or any conversions thereof, a sum not exceeding one-fifth of 1 per centum of the amount of bonds herein authorized to be issued or which may be converted, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated to be expended as the secretary of the treasury may direct."

Five Clergymen Will Help Honor Noted Negro

At the Frederick Douglass memorial exercises in Zion Baptist church Tuesday evening the following will participate in the program: Rev. M. H. Wilkinson, Dr. W. W. Peebles, Misses Cochran and Stewart, Rev. W. T. Osborne, M. F. Singleton, Mrs. Alphonzo Wilson, Dr. J. H. Hutten, Will N. Johnson, Amos P. Scruggs, Mrs. Dewey Allan, George Wells Parker, Mrs. I. Alice Stewart, Rev. G. G. Logan, Rev. W. F. Botts and Rev. Thomas Taggart.

Sells 4,000 Bushels of Potatoes at \$2 Per Bushel

Alliance, Neb., Feb. 26.—Adolph Brost, a farmer living northeast of Alliance, sold 4,000 bushels of potatoes last week to Oscar O'Bannon for \$2 a bushel. The tubers were sold in the Brost cellar and the buyer will bring them to town at his own expense. Speculators are offering to contract the Box Butte crop for 1917 at 75 cents a bushel, but few, if any, contracts are being made on this basis.

Truly a Genius.

"Our Tommy," said the boy's mother, "ought to make a success in life. He shows great determination to stick to anything he undertakes."

"Does he?" queried the proud father.

"Yes," she replied. "Why, he put in the whole day making soap bubbles and trying to tie the strings to them."—New York Times.

Five Liners Will Sail Soon as Guns Are Given Them

New York Feb. 26.—If President Wilson is authorized by congress to arm ships to protect American merchantmen on the high seas, the American line steamships tied up here will resume sailings as soon as guns can be provided, it was stated by the line's officials here today.

The *St. Louis*, *St. Paul*, Philadelphia, New York and Kronland are at their New York docks, the line having declined to send them out until the government furnished armament as defense against attack in the German submarine zone. The Finland of the same line is on its way from Europe to this port.

All the ships are passenger vessels, but the *Kronland* is to be turned into a freighter.

Stock Losses On the Range To Be Normal This Year

W. D. Clifton, assistant general freight agent of the Union Pacific's Wyoming division, is at headquarters, his first visit since his promotion several months ago. Mr. Clifton asserts that while the Wyoming winter has been unusually severe, with more than the normal fall of snow, the live stock losses, unless the spring is very late, will be only about normal.

Funeral of Former Judge Button to Be Held Today

Hastings, Neb., Feb. 26.—(Special Telegram.)—Funeral services for former County Judge Button, who died in Kansas City Saturday afternoon, will be held at the family residence here at 3 o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

Four Years in Prison For Misuse of Mails

Lincoln, Feb. 26.—In federal court today A. L. Baker, alias Charles Davis, was sentenced to serve four years in the government prison at Fort Leavenworth. Baker pleaded guilty to the charge of misuse of the mails in inviting people to buy chickens from the Sunflower Poultry farm at Falls City, Neb. The government alleged no such farm existed, but that Baker secured several hundred dollars from would-be buyers.

Because of its tone and laxative effect, *Laxative Bromo Quinine* can be taken without causing nervousness or ringing in the head. There is only one "Bromo Quinine." E. W. GROVER'S signature on box. 75c—Adv.

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TWELFTH ANNUAL AUTO SHOW GETS WELL UNDER WAY

(Continued From Page One.)

basement. And, for that matter, it isn't a real Palm room and a very pretty one, one worth visiting.

The truck display is in an annex built on Fourteenth street from Howard south to the alley. Sixty trucks, including every manner of commercial vehicle from saucy little half-ton crafts to huge five-ton trucks, are exhibited. It is the most complete display of trucks ever assembled in Omaha.

George Green's band of thirty pieces provides music on the main floor. Green's orchestra makes the syncopation in the Palm room.

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THOMPSON, BELDEN & COMPANY

Notice To Those Having Charge Accounts

Purchases charged Tuesday and Wednesday appear on your statement of April first.

Sport Skirts in Fashions Favorite Spring Styles

The fabrics offer a startling array of newness in weave, pattern and color—silk jersey, khaki kool, la jertz, yo san, poplins, fairway silks, striped tafetas, white satin shantung, flannel, wool jersey, serge, cotton, gabardines and novelty cloths.

The whole range of fashion's fancies has been covered. Prices are reasonable.



"How Do You Do It?"

Mr. Business Man Asked His Wife

"Here's the cost of everything gone up sky-high and you keep the table on the same old allowance."

"Why, I buy HARD ROLL BREAD."

"It costs 10c, but it's a great big loaf that tastes good and takes the place of other things that cost more."

"I can fix it in those sandwiches you like so well, put the end of it in a bread pudding and serve it in a hundred and one ways that satisfies everybody and keeps down expenses."

"It's a Godsend these days."

That's just what it is. It's the best and biggest value in food you can buy.

Try HARD ROLL BREAD—10c. Baked electrically.

It's Bigger and Better

Petersen & Pegau Baking Co.

FORMERLY

U. P. Steam Baking Co.



KUT-EL-AMARA TAKEN BY BRITISH

(Continued From Page One.)

Amara has been secured. Kut itself passes automatically into our hands.

"As the fighting has become of an open character and our forces are disposed on a wide front, it has not yet been possible to ascertain fully the Turkish losses in men and materials."

Berlin, Feb. 26.—(By Wireless to Sayville.)—According to the official news agency at Constantinople, the losses of the British in the recent fighting along the Tigris exceeded 30,000 men. Several steamships crowded with wounded British soldiers had been sent away, the news agency says.

Announced by Tirkey. Constantinople (Via London), Feb. 26.—The war office today announced withdrawal of the forces at Kut-El-Amara. The announcement follows:

"According to a prearranged plan and in order to effect a junction with reinforcements which have arrived, our troops which have held for a year advanced positions at Kut-El-Amara, as well as positions to the east and west of the town, have been withdrawn to the rear in an easterly direction. The movement was entirely unnotified by the enemy."

Kut-El-Amara, a strategic military position on the Tigris river leading to Bagdad, was surrendered to the Turks April 28, 1916, after General Townshend with a British force of some 9,000 troops had withstood a siege since the previous December.

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A Good Trunk

Bag or Suit Case should come from

Freling & Steidle

"Omaha's Best Baggage Builders"

1803 Farnam St.

Plan now to attend the

OMAHA MILLION DOLLAR AUTO SHOW

AUDITORIUM, Feb. 26—Mch. 3

For particulars, address

C. G. POWELL, Manager,
3061 Farnam St., Omaha, Neb.



Obituary Notes

MYRTLE ROBERTS, seventh grade teacher at Webster school, died Sunday at 2834 Dodge street of heart disease. She served three years in the Omaha school. Her home was at Alexandria, S. D.

JAMES, 18-month-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Mangiv Luos, 2322 Highland, died Sunday evening of double bronchial pneumonia. Funeral services will be held Tuesday morning at 9 o'clock. Interment will be in Holy Sepulcher cemetery.

ALSO, 18-month-old baby of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Va. Canie, 1823 North Ravenna street, died Sunday evening of bronchitis. Funeral services will be held Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock from St. Philomena church. Interment will be in Holy Sepulcher cemetery.

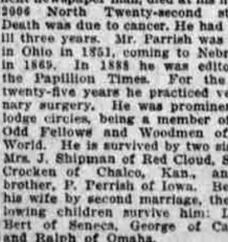
THOMAS RACOBS, 31 years old, a farmer near Pacific Junction, died at a local hospital Sunday afternoon following a month's sickness of heart trouble. He is survived by a wife and four children. The body was sent from Swanson's chapel to Pacific Junction, where burial will take place.

J. R. POWERS, aged 84, a resident of Omaha for the last fifteen years, died at the home of his son, Jack Powers, 1923 Leavenworth street. Death was due to paresis. Mr. Powers was a widower. Funeral services will be held Tuesday morning at 8:30 from the residence to St. Philomena church at 9 o'clock. Interment will be in Holy Sepulcher cemetery.

M. M. PERRISH, aged 67, prominent newspaper man, died at his home, 2908 North Twenty-second street. Death was due to cancer. He had been ill three years. Mr. Perrish was born in Ohio in 1851, coming to Nebraska in 1869. In 1888 he was editor of the *Papillon Times*. For the last twenty-five years he practiced veterinary surgery. He was prominent in lodge circles, being a member of the Odd Fellows and Woodmen of the World. He is survived by two sisters, Mrs. J. Shipman of Red Cloud, Sarah Owen of Chalco, Kan., and a brother, P. Perrish of Iowa. Besides his wife by second marriage, the following children survive him: Louis, Bert of Seneca, George of Canada and Ralph of Omaha.

No better food for growing kiddies can be found than Grape-Nuts

There's a Reason



No better food for growing kiddies can be found than Grape-Nuts

There's a Reason



THE OLD RELIABLE

Metz Beer

W. J. S. WOBODA RETAIL DEALER
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